

# Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

"Believing in people before they have proved themselves is the key to motivating people to reach their potential." ~ John C. Maxwell

Friday, December 12, 2008

Commissioner Buss announced the launch of the Commissioner's Blog, where he will be posting articles for all DOC employees to see. Comments to those posts are encouraged! The blog can be found at: <http://intranet.idoc.in.gov/comblog/default.aspx> and can be accessed by logging onto a state computer.

For 12 hours, 125 volunteers from multiple churches cooked and collected 40,000 cookies to distribute a dozen to each inmate at Westville Correctional Facility. They also provided inspirational lessons and sang Christmas carols.

Branchville Correctional Facility held a Red Cross Blood Drive and gathered a total of 30 good units of blood.

GEO staff added over \$1,500 to the \$4,700 already raised by New Castle Correctional Facility offenders to be donated to the Westminster Community Center's "Shop for a Tot" program.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility PLUS offenders are doing work for staff inside the facility, and the payment for all this work will be food donations to a local food bank.

Lt. Rodney Bowser was recently promoted to Captain at the Reception-Diagnostic Center. Congratulations!

The Indiana State Prison hosted its third 2008 parenting class graduation for 40 offenders. Assistant Superintendent McBride congratulated the class on succeeding in following through on the program to the finish as it is important to maintain contact with their families.

Offenders at Pendleton Correctional Facility were permitted to purchase Kentucky Fried Chicken this week in connection with a fundraiser sponsored by the facility's American Legion organization. Half of the profit will be donated to charity.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility held its 5th PLUS Unit graduation ceremony. 15 students were honored for successfully completing the 16-week character and faith-based program and were presented with certificates.

New Castle Correctional Facility PLUS offenders donated \$494.66 to the Shepherd Community Center in Indianapolis.

Madison Correctional Facility held two graduations this week. The GRIP therapeutic community graduated 47 women and PLUS graduated 30.

About 20 Miami Correctional Facility offenders put in more than 400 hours filling 38 semi-trailers recently with tires during Tire Collection events in Benton, White, and Jasper counties for the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District.

The Indiana Women's Prison Wee Ones Nursery Program was honored with a *Heroes in the Fight* award given by Eli Lilly and Company. The award celebrates dignity, courage, hope, and recovery in the ongoing treatment of persons with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI).

Mennonite congregations from Central Indiana distributed cookies and cards at the Correctional Industrial Facility.

Plainfield Correctional Facility began collecting holiday cards for men and women in the Armed Services who are currently overseas. The cards will be sent to give them a sense of home and remind them that they aren't forgotten.

New Castle Correctional Facility staff assisted the Salvation Army with bell ringing this week and raised \$678.68.

A volunteer recognition dinner was held for volunteers of the Madison Correctional Facility. A lasagna dinner was prepared and served by Inmate to Workmate participants and entertainment was provided by offenders.

Prison Fellowship provided students at Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility a traditional Christmas Dinner, along with singing and a message from Rev. Anthony Payton from Come As You Are Community Church in Fort Wayne.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner